

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 AID-20 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 OMB-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DRC-01 USIA-15 (ISO) W

----- 007496

R 030945Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2126

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T JAKARTA 5439

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, ID

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN - THE VIEW FROM JAKARTA

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REF: A) NEW DELHI 5616 STATE 031796

SUMMARY: WHILE INDONESIAN VIEW OF INDIAN OCEAN, AND US ACTIVITIES THERE, DIFFERS IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM INDIANS', POSITIVE STATEMENT BY USG OF OUR SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVE OF A PEACEFUL INDIAN OCEAN, AS SUGGESTED PARA 13 REF A, WOULD BE WELCOMED BY INDONESIANS AND WOULD ASSIST IN MODERATING REACTION TO EXPANSION DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES. END SUMMARY

1. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THOUGHTS EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY DELHI IN REF A, I HAVE TAKEN FRESH LOOK AT INDINA OCEAN FROM JAKARTA VANTAGE POINT.

2. CERTAIN POINTS MADE IN REF A ARE EQUALLY VALID HERE. CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE FULLEST POSSIBLE PICTURE OF MIX AND BALANCE OF US INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AS BACKGROUND FOR OUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER SUCH INTERESTS IN DEALINGS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO HAVE, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, A SIMPLE LONG-RANGE RATIONALE FOR US DEPLOYMENTS IN AREA, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH DEPLOYMENTS ARE IN PART A FUNCTION OF CHANGING SITUATION IN AREA.

3. IN VIEW FROM JAKARTA DIFFERS FROM THAT OF DELHI IN CERTAIN IMPORTANT RESPECTS. WHILE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME REAL ZONE OF PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN, AND SEEMS GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT MILITARY BUILD-UP OF DIEGO GARCIA COULD LEAD TO HEIGHTENED TENSIONS IN AREA, INDONESIANS ARE NOT MORE SUSPICIOUS OF A US THAN A SOVIET PRESENCE, BUT RATHER THE OTHER WAY AROUND. IN THIS REGARD, INDONESIAN OFFICIALS I HAVE TALKED WITH HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH DATA CONTAINED REF B.

4. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT PRESENT INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT US WOULD EMPLOY OPTION TO DEPLOY SLBM'S IN THIS STRATEGIC AREA, OR USE MILITARY CAPABILITY IN INDIAN OCEAN TO EXERT PRESSURE FOR POLITICAL/ MILITARY REASONS ON COUNTRIES BORDERING OCEAN (PARA 4 REF A). IF U.S. CAPABILITIES IN INDIA SHOULD BECOME A HEATED POLITICAL ISSUE IN THIRD WORLD, WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT INDONESIAN

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WOULD REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING OUT AGAINST US. INDONESIANS ARE FACED WITH DILEMMA OF HOW TO RATIONALIZE THEIR DESIRE FOR US TO MAINTAIN PRESENCE IN ASIA WITH THEIR STANCE IN SUPPORT OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE AND OPPOSING UPGRADING OF DIEGO GARCIA (STANCE WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN PART TO BURNISH THEIR NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS IN FACE OF THIRD-WORLD CRITICISMS THAT THEY ARE TOO PRO-US -- NOT A PROBLEM FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT).

5. AGAINST THIS SOMEWHAT DIFFERING BACKGROUND I WISH TO
ENDORSE SUGGESTION MADE PARA 13 REF A THAT WE STATE
PUBLICLY AND IN A WELL PUBLICIZED FORUM THAT WE SHARE
THE DSIRE TO PROMOTE CONDITIONS OF PEACE AND
TRANQUILITY IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA, AND SEEK TO AVOID A
COMPETITIVE EXPANSION OF MILITARY STRENGTH ON PART OF
MAJOR POWERS. IF POSSIBLE SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD MAKE IT
CLEAR THAT WE WOULD RESPOND TO A REDUCTION IN SOVIET
MILITARY PRSENCE IN AREA WITH A HOLDING BACK OF OUR OWN.
WITH SUCH A PUBLIC STATEMENT, AND USING DATA SUCH AS
PROVIDED IN REF B, I BELIEVE WE WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO
OBTAIN INDONESIAN ACQUIESCENCE IN THE US MILITARY
PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN WHICH WE FEEL WE NEED, INCLUDING
FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY POLICIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART05439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740117-0912
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740577/aaaacqtx.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) NEW DELHI 5616 STATE 031796
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OCEAN - THE VIEW FROM JAKARTA SECRET
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005